Indiana Crop & Weather Report

INDIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
1148 AGAD BLDG, ROOM 223
WEST LAFAYETTE IN 47907-1148
Phone (765)494-8371 (800)363-0469
FAX (765)494-4315 (800)363-0475

Released: Monday, 3PM April 6, 1998 Vol. 48, #1 West Lafayette, IN 47907

CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 5

THIS REPORT IS THE FIRST CROP WEATHER REPORT FOR THE 1998 GROWING SEASON. A SERIES OF WEEKLY CROP PROGRESS REPORTS WILL BE PUBLISHED EACH MONDAY AT 3:00 P.M. EST THROUGHOUT THE CROP SEASON. These reports will cover planting and harvesting activities, crop development, weather data and timely crop management information provided by Purdue University experts. Look for these reports on the Internet. Our Home Page address is listed at the bottom of this publication.

WINTER WHEAT

Twenty-five percent of the winter wheat acreage is **jointed**, compared to only 2 percent last year. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 80 percent good to excellent, compared to 70 percent at this time last year. The mild winter has left the wheat in good condition and about 1 to 2 weeks ahead of normal maturity. The crop does not appear to have suffered any long term damage from the freezing temperatures in early March.

SEED BED PREPARATION

Field preparation has been limited by wet soil conditions across most of the state. Unseasonably mild temperatures in February allowed farmers to complete some fieldwork (primarily fertilizer application), however March precipitation has left the soil too wet to support heavy machinery. Fortunately farmers were able to complete a lot of tillage work last fall.

OTHER CROPS

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was rated 15 percent surplus, 79 percent adequate and 6 percent short. **Pasture condition** was rated 9 excellent, 49 percent good, 37 percent fair and 5 percent poor.

DAYS SUITABLE and SOIL MOISTURE

For the week ending Friday, 2.0 days were rated **suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was rated 1 percent short, 53 percent adequate and 46 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 2 percent very short, 10 percent short, 69 percent adequate and 19 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
	Percent			
Winter Wheat Jointed	25	NA	2	2

CROP CONDITION

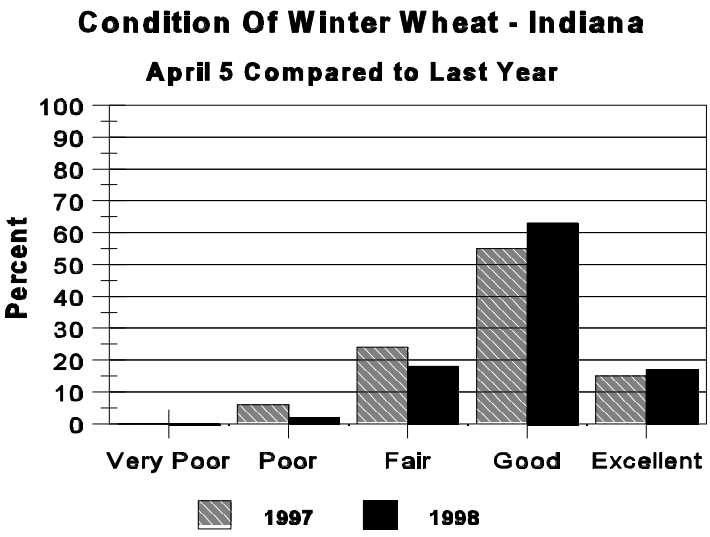
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat 1998	0	2	18	63	17
Winter Wheat 1997	0	6	24	55	15
Pasture	0	5	37	49	9

SOIL MOISTURE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	NA	0
Short	1	NA	0
Adequate	53	NA	62
Surplus	46	NA	38
Subsoil			
Very Short	2	NA	0
Short	10	NA	0
Adequate	69	NA	61
Surplus	19	NA	39

--Ralph W. Gann, State Statistician
--Lance Honig, Agricultural Statistician
E-Mail Address: nass-in@nass.usda.gov
http://info.aes.purdue.edu/agstat/nass.html

Crop Progress



Planning for the 1998 Soybean Crop

- What do weather forecasters say about El Nino?
- Should we consider changes in our soybean production system for 1998?

A lot of folks these days are discussing the potential impacts of El Nino on the 1998 Indiana soybean crop. Since the first of the year, I have heard a number of individuals making suggestions and giving advice on ways to avoid the impacts of El Nino. I have read a number of different sources of information on the potential impacts of El Nino during the 1998 growing season in the eastern corn belt. From what I have read, I conclude that there is little consistency between forecasts. Therefore, my interpretation is that the 1998 growing season could approximate normal or vary from normal. Each growing season could and in most cases does vary from what is considered normal (an average of all years for which data are available).

Since we do not have a clear cut weather pattern emerging with respect to El Nino, we should treat this year as any other year and assume that it will approximate a normal year. Having said that, I would suggest that the soybean production system this year be one designed utilizing best management practices to maximize an economic yield. I hear three things being discussed as possible areas where farmers may attempt to make modifications in their production system. These include changing maturity group, planting date, and seeding rate.

The variety selected should be a full season variety for your geographic area with good disease resistance and yielding ability. An attempt to change to an early or later maturing variety could spell disaster. An early maturing variety does not have the ability to fully compensate for late July and August rains while a full season variety can respond nicely to these late rains. The 1997 growing season is a good reminder of the issue of using early season varieties. In many instances, the early maturing varieties had ceased flowering when the August 1997 rains came and could not compensate and hence, had greatly reduced yields.

The period between May 5 and May 20 is the ideal window to plant soybeans. Planting earlier than April 25 or later than June 5 usually result in a yield reduction. We need to remember that full season varieties planted on or before May 20 will usually begin flowering on approximately the same day whether planted April or May. The idea that planting early will result in earlier reproductive development of the soybean plant is false.

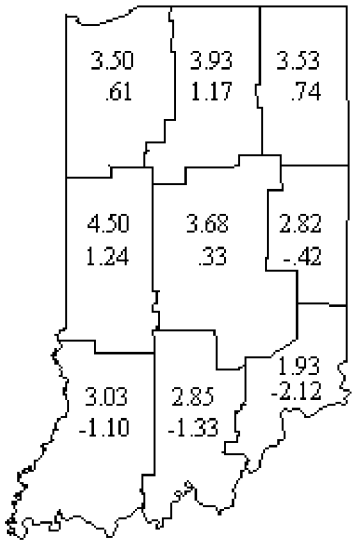
(Continued on Page 4.)

Average Daily Values for week ending Monday morning April 6, 1998

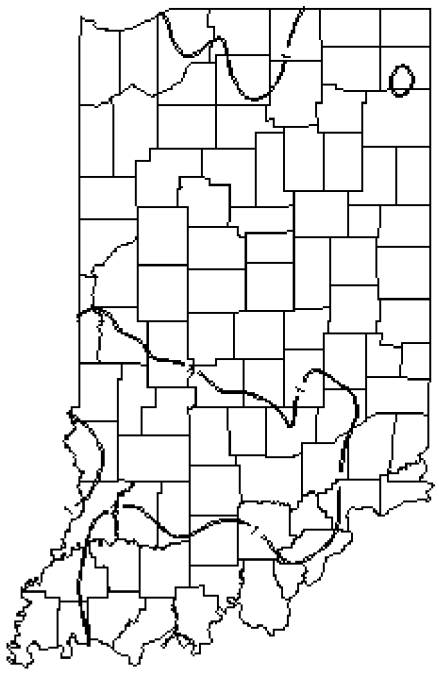
Area	Station	Air Temperature Max	Min	DN	Precipitation Past Week	Since April 1	DN Since April 1	Growing Degree Days Past Week	Since April 1	DN Since April 1
NW	Wanatah	57	36	+3	.79	.75	+.05	34	16	+6
	Kentland	60	40	+5	.65	.65	-.01	47	25	+8
	Winamac	59	38	+3	.89	.89	+.21	37	20	+1
NC	South Bend	57	39	+4	.88	.88	+.15	39	17	+6
	Waterford Mills	59	40	+5	.95	.95	+.30	42	20	+5
NE	Prairie Heights	60	40	+8	.77	.77	+.12	44	23	+16
	Columbia City	60	39	+6	.73	.73	+.05	44	24	+11
	Fort Wayne	60	40	+5	.51	.51	-.13	47	26	+11
	Bluffton	60	40	+4	.54	.54	-.17	45	23	+4
WC	West Lafayette	59	40	+4	.74	.73	+.06	45	22	+5
	Perrysville	60	41	+1	.95	.83	+.02	45	26	-9
	Crawfordsville	61	40	+5	.57	.57	-.11	50	30	+13
	Terre Haute 8s	64	43	+5	1.03	1.03	+.28	61	38	+11
C	Tipton	60	39	+5	.58	.58	-.15	44	27	+11
	Indianapolis	62	43	+4	.76	.76	+.02	54	32	+5
	Indian Creek	63	42	+5	.89	.89	+.15	58	36	+9
EC	Farmland	61	41	+7	.78	.78	+.10	51	28	+13
	Liberty	63	40	+5	.54	.54	-.22	55	33	+5
SW	Vincennes	64	42	+4	.97	.97	+.20	61	37	+5
	Dubois	65	42	+3	1.27	1.27	+.40	64	40	+8
	Evansville	65	44	+2	.97	.97	+.13	65	39	-2
SC	Bedford	64	42	+5	1.39	1.39	+.57	63	39	+8
	Louisville	67	45	+3	.94	.94	+.08	71	46	+6
SE	Butlerville	65	42	+2	1.01	1.01	+.15	64	41	+1

DN = departure from normal.
Growing Degree Days = daily mean - 50 (below 50 adjusted to 50, above 86 adjusted to 86.)

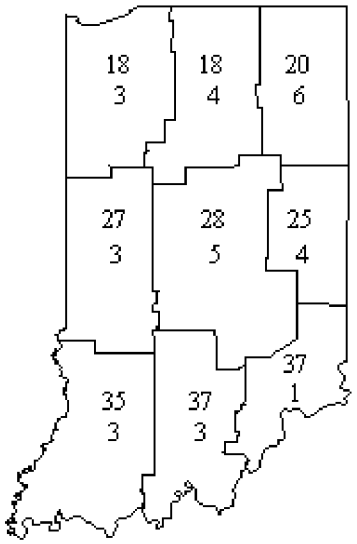
Rainfall for Past 4 Weeks
and Departure from Normal



Rainfall of 1 Inch or More
for Past 7 Days
as of Monday morning



Growing Degree Days
and Departure since April 1



The above information is provided by Ken Scheeringa, Indiana State Climatologist (765)494-8105
E-mail: kscheeringa@dept.agry.purdue.edu http://shadow.agry.purdue.edu

Soybeans (continued)

Seeding rate should not be altered in anticipation of weather events. A population of 165,000 plants per acre in drilled soybeans is considered a perfect stand and would require a seeding rate of 200,000 seeds per acre. With a 30 inch row spacing, a perfect stand would be 105,000 plants per acre with a seeding rate of 130,000 seeds per acre.

I would suggest that with the forecast information available today, that we plan for a near normal growing season and develop our production system accordingly.

--Ellsworth P. Christmas, Purdue University

The INDIANA CROP WEATHER REPORT (USPS 675-770), (ISSN 0442-817X) is issued weekly April through November by the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service, Purdue University, 1148 AgAd Bldg, Rm 223, West Lafayette IN 47907-1148. Second Class postage paid at Lafayette IN. For information on subscribing, send request to above address. POSTMASTER: Send address change to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service, Purdue University, 1148 AgAd Bldg, Rm 223, West Lafayette IN 47907-1148.